

Serial No. 08/787,651

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

In one embodiment of the invention, the flowing mixture of curable liquid is cured by shining thereon ultraviolet light from ultraviolet curing lamp 109 in the general vicinity of the end of the tapering tube, thereby forming a fiber. For example, ultraviolet curing lamp 109 may be a 500 W high-pressure ultraviolet lamp giving off 350 nm light. The curing step may be performed, at least in part, while the flowing mixture of ultraviolet curable liquid is still in tapering tube 107. To this end, tapering tube 107 may have at least a section that passes a sufficient amount of ultraviolet light to permit some curing. For example, a portion of tapering tube 107 may be made of amorphous quartz which is ultraviolet transparent. In another embodiment of the invention, the curing is performed only after the flowing mixture of ultraviolet curable liquid exits from tapering tube 107. Those of ordinary skill in the art will readily recognize that liquids curable at least in part through the application of factors other than ultraviolet light may, alternatively or additionally, be employed. Means for applying such other factors may be substituted for, or supplement, ultraviolet curing lamp 109.